



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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FBIS-AFR-96-045
Wednesday
8 March 1996

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March 1996

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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-96-045

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Burundi

Burundi: UN Source Says Hutu Rebels Kill Over 70 Civilians

LD0503184796 Paris Radio France International
in French 1730 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A recurrence of ethnic violence in Burundi: A source close to the United Nations has said that Hutu rebels have killed more than 70 civilians in five days of operations in the northwest of the country, giving rise to fears of a resumption of slaughter. In the capital Bujumbura, there was automatic gunfire and grenade explosions last night (4 March), something which has not been heard for more than a month.

Cameroon

Cameroon: Limbe, Garoua 'Extremely Tense' After 3 Mar Demonstration

AB0503182796 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Cameroon, the situation has been extremely tense since 3 March in Limbe, in the southwest of the country. The tense situation was caused by the demonstration initiated over the weekend by activists of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) to protest President Paul Biya's nomination of government representatives to replace elected mayors of the country's major towns. Tension, therefore, mounted in Limbe which has virtually been cordoned off by security forces who have received instructions to forestall any fresh demonstration by the SDF after the 1 March demonstration which led to two deaths.

A quite similar situation prevails in Garoua, another town in north Cameroon, where the National Union for Democracy and Progress, [UNDP], winner of the municipal elections in Garoua, launched a ghost city operation yesterday. Here is UNDP Chairman Bello Bouba Maigari, contacted this morning by Francois-Luc Moukouangui, with details on the situation:

[Begin Maigari recording] Yesterday, the UNDP organized a ghost city in Garoua. All the inhabitants of Garoua were asked to stay indoors and not to go out to show their disapproval of the official installation of the new government representative, nominated by the president of the Republic. At the end of the day, the induction ceremony itself did not come on.

I think we ought to continue with the court action we initiated at the Supreme Court over a year ago — prior to the elections, I think — to ask the court to declare as illegal the decree which extended the list of municipalities that have special administrative status.

I think we are going to initiate a legal action at the National Assembly for a fresh amendment to allow these towns to have elected mayors. [end recording]

Rwanda

Rwanda: UN Tribunal Asks for Danish Support in War Crimes Work

BR0503122996 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE
in Danish 4 Mar 96 p 2

[Unattributed RITZAUS BUREAU report: "War Crimes Tribunal Needs Experts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN international war crimes tribunal for Rwanda is in a state of crisis due to understaffing and is asking Denmark for help with lawyers and police officers.

"We need people and are hoping for support from Denmark. In particular we lack female lawyers who can help us question the many rape victims," Alain Sigg, spokesman for the tribunal's prosecuting office in the Rwandan capital of Kigali, told MORGENAVISEN JYLLANDS-POSTEN.

The international tribunal must find and prosecute the principals behind the postwar era's greatest crime against humanity, the genocide of almost 1 million ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda.

But so far the war crimes tribunal has produced only eight indictments.

The bottleneck is the Kigali office which only has 40 detectives at its disposal to investigate the enormous number of cases.

"We are very worried about the slow pace," Alain Sigg told JYLLANDS-POSTEN.

Two Danes are already on the tribunal's staff.

Professor Frederik Harhoff, expert on international law, will head the prosecutor's office in Tanzania, while Danish forensic specialist Peter Knudsen of Odense University has just returned home from Rwanda where he has investigated a mass grave in the provincial town of Kibuye together with 15 other experts.

"The largest part of the victims I saw were women of all ages," Peter Knudsen told JYLLANDS-POSTEN.

In 25 years as a forensic specialist Peter Knudsen has seen many atrocities.

"But never on this scale with so many victims gathered together," he said.

South Africa: Mandela Condemns Bomb Attacks in Israel*MB0503153796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1508 GMT 05 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG March 5 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Tuesday condemned bombs that claimed 38 lives in Israel but said he was prepared to meet Hamas militants whose military wing claimed responsibility for the attacks.

"We condemn that (the blasts) in the strongest terms because violence does not help to solve any problems," Mandela told reporters at Johannesburg's Park Lane Clinic where he is spending three days for a medical examination.

Asked if he would meet members of the Hamas Islamic fundamentalist group if they visited South Africa, he said he was not aware of any visit. "But my attitude is to see everybody who wants to see me whether I agree with his policy or not," he said. "It sometimes helps because I am able to state my policy to them... and let them defend their own policy if they can."

Hamas claimed responsibility for a suicide-bomb attack that killed 20 people, including three former South Africans, outside a Tel Aviv shopping centre on Monday and the Sunday bombing of a Jerusalem bus that killed 18.

Mandela said South Africa, with a past dominated by tensions and conflict, had shown that talking could solve problems. "I have grown to detest any form of violence such as this bomb attack," he said. "There is no reason whatsoever why we should resort to violence."

South Africa: Mandela Willing To Meet With Hamas Representatives*MB0603110496 Johannesburg SABC 3 Television
Network in English 1800 GMT 5 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Nelson Mandela has been admitted to a Johannesburg clinic for three days of medical tests. Mr. Mandela's office said the president would undergo a series of intensive tests, aimed at ending speculation that his health was deteriorating. The rand has come under pressure in recent weeks, because of rumors that the president was sick. [passage omitted]

In a separate development, the president told reporters at a news conference later in the day that he would meet the militant Palestinian group, Hamas, if they visited South Africa. Hamas leaders are expected in the country next month, at the invitation of a local Islamic group. Mr. Mandela said he was unaware of the visit, but would nevertheless meet the group.

[Begin Mandela recording] My attitude, of course, is to see everybody who wants to see me, whether I agree with his policy or not. It sometimes helps, because I'm able to state my policy to them as it is, and to let them defend their own policy, if they can. [end recording]

According to one report, the Hamas delegation will address South African politicians at a conference in Cape Town. Meanwhile, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies has expressed outrage that Hamas representatives will be in South Africa next month. The board called on responsible politicians not to meet with Hamas.

South Africa: Jewish Groups Express 'Outrage' Over Planned Hamas Visit*MB0603111996 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1000 GMT 6 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A relative of two South African victims of this week's Tel Aviv bomb blast is furious that President Mandela is prepared to meet Hamas representatives. It's reported that Hamas officials plan to visit South Africa next month. Although Mr. Mandela said yesterday that he was unaware of the planned visit, he said he would be prepared to meet them. However, he has condemned the wave of bombings in which 60 people were killed recently.

Prominent Jewish groups, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the South African Zionist Federation, have expressed outrage at the planned visit. A Johannesburg newspaper today spoke to a local woman, Mrs. Robyn Lipner, whose 75-year-old grandmother, Mrs. Sylvia Bernstein and 47-year-old aunt, Mrs. Gail Belkin, were killed in Monday's blast. Mrs. Lipner said that while she had tremendous respect for Mr. Mandela, she did not think Hamas deserved to be met.

South Africa: Relations With U.S. Reportedly at 'All-Time Low'*MB0603104896 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
6 Mar 96 p 6*

[Article by Peter Fabricius in Washington]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Relations between South Africa (SA) and the United States have sunk to an all-time low as the U.S. refuses to drop 1991 arms smuggling charges against Armscor (Armaments Corporation of South Africa).

SA has warned the US that the high-level US-SA Bina-tional Commission — centrepiece of relations between the two countries — and other bilateral contacts could be suspended if the U.S. does not withdraw the indictment. Although this is being dismissed in some U.S.

quarters as negotiating brinkmanship, it is evident that relations are more tense than they have ever been.

And the Armscor row has been aggravated by an untimely squabble over the Cuban government's shooting down of two — Cuban-American civilian aircraft — last week.

The U.S. has complained to SA about its response to the incident, which the Americans considered insensitive, diplomatic sources said. The SA Department of Foreign Affairs issued a statement last week which did not criticise Cuba, as the Americans expected, but urged "both sides to exercise maximum restraint". The U.S. objected to the implication that it bore equal guilt in the incident.

But the main cause of a possible crisis in U.S.-SA relations is America's 1991 indictment against Armscor for alleged arms smuggling from the U.S. in the 70s and 80s.

After high-level official negotiations in Washington two weeks ago, the U.S. is still not ready to drop the charges, sources said. If it doesn't, SA is likely to go to court to challenge America's right to indict Armscor, South African ambassador to the U.S. Franklin Sonn said this week.

SA would argue that Armscor, as a South African Government entity, should enjoy "sovereign immunity" from U.S. courts, he said. Sonn said Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, co-chairmen of the Binational Commission, had discussed the issue by telephone on Friday.

It is understood that Gore later conveyed a last-minute concession which would require Armscor only to plead "no contest" in the case — without admitting guilt. But Sonn pointed out that this was also unacceptable as Armscor would still be liable to be found guilty by the court and to pay all the same penalties.

He confirmed that at talks in Washington last month, Mbeki's legal adviser Mojanku Mgumbi had told U.S. Assistant Secretary of State George Moose that if the Armscor charges were not dropped and SA took the U.S. to court, there could be a suspension of the Binational Commission.

Sonn insisted, though, that this was not a threat but merely a statement of the fact that if the U.S. and SA confronted each other in court, this would have repercussions on relations. He said the US government had also warned SA officials that the Binational Commission could be jeopardised if the Armscor issue was not resolved.

Sonn said it was possible the Armscor case could still be resolved amicably, and even if it went to court it might not harm relations.

U.S. officials this week seemed surprised by the turn of events and said they believed they had modified their proposal to show respect for SA's sovereignty concerns.

The Armscor case has been polluting relations between the two countries since the indictment in October 1991 when the U.S. charged that Armscor and subsidiary Kentron had violated the arms embargo on SA by smuggling missile parts, bomb fuses and other arms from a Pennsylvania company.

The new SA Government objects to being asked to pay for the sins of the previous government. Apart from a guilty plea, the U.S. also wants Armscor to pay a fine of about R37-million [rands], a negotiable figure.

It is also still insisting that the U.S. should be allowed to inspect Armscor facilities in future, to ensure that arms imported from the U.S. are not diverted to third countries.

SA also objects to this demand, on the grounds that it violates the country's sovereignty. Sonn said the SA Government's response to the latest U.S. offer would be conveyed to the U.S. government within days.

SA has made a counter-proposal which it believes should satisfy the legal interests of the U.S. in this case but would not require guilty pleas from Armscor and Kentron or "direct scrutiny" of the SA arms industry by the U.S..

South Africa: Mandela's Visit To Angola Postponed Due To Medical Exam

*MB0503160096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1554 GMT 05 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] President Nelson Mandela has had to postpone a second official engagement because of his three-day medical check-up aimed at ending speculation about his health.

The President's state visit to Angola scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday had been postponed, his personal secretary Mary Mxadana said on Tuesday afternoon.

Mandela was due to have met Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Jonas Savimbi.

The Department of Foreign Affairs announced on Monday that Namibian president Sam Nujoma's first official state visit to South Africa — due to have started on Wednesday — had been postponed because of the tests.

South Africa: Mandela Vows To Continue in Office Until 1999*MB0503161196 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1419 GMT 05 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg March 5 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela on Tuesday dismissed speculation he would leave office before the end of his five-year term, but said he would definitely step down in 1999. "There is no question of me continuing beyond 1999," he told reporters at Park Lane Clinic, where he is undergoing three days of medical tests.

Mandela continued his busy schedule on Tuesday, fitting in blood tests and an electrocardiogram with several meetings and telephone calls to his ministers and heads of neighbouring states.

He said he had spoken to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and home affairs Deputy Minister Penwell Maduna. He met Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel before coming to the clinic and was expecting a call from Botswanan President Ketumile Masire. He also met several top international executives, in South Africa for an investment conference.

South Africa: Mandela Completes First Day of Medical Tests*MB0503174896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1654 GMT 05 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg March 5 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela combined heart and blood tests with diplomacy and politics as he continued working on Tuesday, the first day of his most vigorous medical check-up in his 77 years.

Mandela cheerily insisted he was healthy as he began the three-day battery of tests at the private Park Lane Clinic in Johannesburg in a bid to prove he is not ailing. "I am my best doctor and the feeling of well-being in me is strong," he said. "I've had check-ups regularly — this is the most intensive. I'm long past my teens. I am not a young man."

Doctors on Tuesday put Mandela through urine and blood tests and an electrocardiogram (ecg). They later declared his heartbeat to be perfect. "It's fine, it's perfect, it's a textbook," hospital spokesman Timothy Groom told SAPA. Mandela said after the tests he felt fine and suffered no pain.

Doctors would on Wednesday insert tiny cameras deep into Mandela — the latest in fibre-optic medicine — to "have a really good look" at the president's body, Groom said.

A conference room and office adjoin Mandela's luxury suite in the clinic. He found time on Tuesday to meet Minority Front leader Amichand Rajbansi and a delegation of international executives. He met Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel before slipping into the clinic's back door at 8AM.

Between two press conferences and lunch with African National Congress Deputy Secretary-General Cheryl Carolus, Mandela said he spoke on the phone to Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and was awaiting a call from Botswanan President Ketumile Masire.

He also had phone conversations with Inkatha Freedom Party leader and Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and his Deputy Minister Penuel Maduna.

"I can't avoid working in hospital," Mandela remarked.

The tests follow repeated threats to the rand on financial markets amid rumours Mandela is ill. The president said comprehensive results would be made public to refute the rumours.

He denied reports he may not finish his five-year term of office, but confirmed he would retire in 1999.

Mandela is enjoying luxurious treatment and cordon bleu cuisine while under examination by some of South Africa's best doctors.

Doctors and clinic staff described him as a model patient. "He is easier than 99 percent of our other patients," said clinic manager Norman Weltman. "It is his manner, his friendliness and graciousness....He is really so grateful for everything."

Mandela's personal physician, lung specialist Dr Michael Plit, is overseeing tests on the president by a heart expert, urologist and radiologists. "Obviously for a man of 77 we will be looking for all problems that affect old-age citizens," Plit told SAPA. "We will ascertain exactly how well he is and allay the fears of the press and everybody. I can assure you there are no problems. At the present moment he is very well."

Plit said Mandela had only minimal lung damage from a bout of tuberculosis in prison.

Besides a good exercise regime, Mandela also enjoyed a sensible and frugal diet, Plit said. "He is highly intelligent and a very wonderful patient to have."

Weltman said the clinic boasted "some of the best known medical and surgical doctors in this town". With Plit, the president was in the hands of "one of the most eminent doctors in the country".

Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is acting president while Mandela is in hospital.

Namibian President Sam Nujoma's state visit to South Africa was postponed this week to allow Mandela's health check to go ahead. Mandela has also called off a trip to Angola scheduled for next Monday and Tuesday.

South Africa: Mandela To Hand Over 'Most' Duties to Mbeki

MB0603060496 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy President Thabo Mbeki is to take over most of President Nelson Mandela's duties. In the Park Lane Clinic where he is undergoing a medical checkup, Mr. Mandela said he was feeling the full weight of his 77 summers and would scale down his duties.

Earlier economists said even if the medical tests prove that Mr. Mandela is healthy, it would not be enough to reassure the money markets. Economists say the markets want to know who will succeed the president, and his successor should start playing a more prominent role. Mr. Mbeki is one of the ANC's crown princes, and Mr. Mandela's announcement could indicate that he will ultimately succeed him as president. Meanwhile, President Mandela has postponed his state visit to Angola next week.

South Africa: Doctors Perform 'Small Procedure' on President Mandela

MB0603121496 Johannesburg SABA in English 1202 GMT 06 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG March 6 SABA - Doctors were expected to discharge President Nelson Mandela from the hospital on Friday with a clean bill of health after three days of comprehensive medical tests, a hospital spokesman said.

"We really do expect a clean bill of health," said Dorothy Groom, spokesman for the Park Lane Clinic where Mandela was admitted on Tuesday for tests to allay fears he is ailing.

Doctors performed "a small procedure" on Mandela under sterile conditions in an operating theatre early on Wednesday and planned to let him sleep for the rest of the day.

The operation was a straightforward diagnostic test, Groom said.

The president had supper with his grandchildren on Tuesday night and physiotherapy on his chest first thing on Wednesday. Further tests were expected on Thursday.

South Africa: Mandela's Office—Mbeki Acting President for 3 Days 'Only'

MB0603122396 Johannesburg SABA in English 1212 GMT 06 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG March 6 SABA — President Nelson Mandela's office on Wednesday corrected what it said was a mistaken impression that Mandela was handing some of his duties to his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, in preparation for his retirement in 1999.

A television report on Tuesday claimed Mandela had said he would scale down his duties.

Mandela's spokesman Parks Mankahlana said this was not entirely correct. He said Mbeki was acting president only for the duration of Mandela's three-day hospital visit for medical tests.

"It seems they misunderstood him as saying he has begun delegating some of his presidential functions to Thabo Mbeki in anticipation of a gradual handover," Mankahlana said.

"We are concerned about that misinterpretation. It has the potential to send the wrong signals."

Mandela on Tuesday confirmed he would not serve a second term of office, but said he had no plans to step down before 1999.

South Africa: De Klerk Says Foreigners Concerned Over Post-Mandela Era

MB0503191496 Johannesburg SABA in English 1847 GMT 05 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town March 5 SABA — Foreign investors and politicians were concerned about South Africa's future after President Nelson Mandela left office, regardless of what Deputy President Thabo Mbeki might have to say, Deputy President F W de Klerk's office said on Tuesday.

The African National Congress said, however, these claims raised serious questions about the NP's [National Party] role in fanning such concerns. It was reacting to a statement by De Klerk's adviser, NP Senator Nick Koornhof, that Mbeki was out of touch when he claimed that only South Africans were concerned about what would happen once Mandela left the political stage.

"Nearly all the foreign businessmen, industrialists and politicians who have visited Deputy President de Klerk are concerned about the 'after-Mandela' era," Koornhof said. Mbeki's "off target and naive" comments would merely upset foreigners further, especially as he was a strong candidate to succeed Mandela as president.

An ANC statement on Tuesday night said De Klerk as deputy president should be playing a constructive role in attracting foreign investments and mobilising resources for the Reconstruction and Development Programme rather than fanning these concerns. "President Nelson Mandela has on countless occasions warned against praising him to the detriment of other ANC leaders. The National Party continues in this trend by casting aspersions on the integrity of Deputy President Thabo Mbeki."

Speaking at Tuynhuys on Monday, Mbeki dismissed reports that foreign investors were jittery about Mandela's health, and that this was affecting foreign investment in South Africa. "The matter is raised in South Africa rather than the rest of the world. It's a very South African thing."

South Africans travelling overseas were making an issue of the president's health and then claiming on their return that the concerns had emanated from abroad, he claimed.

South Africa: Reserve Bank Favors 'Gradual Scrapping' of Exchange Rates

MB0603070996 Johannesburg Safm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reserve Bank governor Chris Stals says the bank is not ready to advise the government on scrapping remaining exchange controls in South Africa. Dr. Stals told SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news that the central bank favored a gradual scrapping of exchange rates, but the decision rested with the Ministry of Finance and the government. He said rapid abolishment was dangerous and could lead to an outflow of capital and a marked weakening of the exchange rate. He said the exchange controls should be abolished gradually to avoid disrupting the economy's stability.

South Africa: 'Worse Than Expected' Trade Deficit Recorded in Jan

MB0503180896 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1258 GMT 05 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA March 5 SAPA — South Africa's trade account slipped into a sizeable deficit in January following a small surplus in December as imports rose sharply.

According to the Department of Finance's Commissioner for Customs and Excise on Tuesday, a trade deficit of R942-million [rands] was recorded in January against a surplus of R258-million the month before.

Imports climbed 19 percent in January to R8.331-billion from R7.005-billion in December, while exports rose by less than 2 percent to R7.389-billion from R7.263-billion.

Although most analysts expected a deficit in January, they said the figure was "worse than expected".

In January last year a trade surplus of R1.040-billion was recorded on imports of R6.800-billion and exports of R7.480-billion.

From the trade account needs to be subtracted monthly transfer and service payments of between R1.3- and R1.5-billion to arrive at the current account of the balance of payments.

According to analysts, South Africa recorded a current account deficit of around R12.5-billion in 1995, although official figures from the central Reserve Bank are scheduled for release later this month.

South Africa registered its first current account deficit in a decade in 1994 of R2.1-billion.

South Africa: Government's Monetary Policy Said Not Alleviating Poverty

MB0603132896 Johannesburg THE STAR (BUSINESS REPORT) in English 6 Mar 96 p 1

[Report by James Lamont]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg — The government's monetary policy served to compound existing inequalities and would not alleviate poverty, Vella Pillay, the director of the National Institute of Economic Policy, said yesterday.

"Pillay is the only banker within the South African trade union movement," said COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] general secretary Sam Shilowa.

In an address to COSATU's labour negotiation school, Pillay said current monetary policies were tantamount to "structural adjustment" and inappropriate to a developing country. He said the policies were doomed to failure.

The policies under way "spell a future of aggravating levels of unemployment and an economy which goes nowhere in terms of conditions of life for the greater majority of our people," he said.

[Words indistinct] movements, privatisation of public assets and supply-side economics did not constitute a convincing policy to address severe economic blight.

He said monetary policy, guided by a banking cartel, ignored "the life and labour of the black population by seeking to curb wage advances and sustaining a surplus-generating system of cheap labour".

He proposed that the state should intervene to create jobs and expand output. [Words indistinct] would build a strong public sector that would encourage private investment. He said the government could afford to raise public expenditure by freeing itself from a fiscal policy constrained by the inherited volume of domestic public debt, the servicing of the debt and the size of the Budget deficit.

The size of the debt was "far from excessive for a country with some 40 to 50 percent of its working population being unemployed," he said. He saw no reason why the budgetary deficit should not rise to 7 to 9 percent of GDP.

Pillay said economic policy was guided by the belief that the state was up to its neck in debt as a result of paying large sums to the upper echelons of the civil service.

Pillay was responding to an overview of the functions of the Reserve Bank, delivered by its governor, Chris Stals. Stals said the primary function of the Reserve Bank was to protect the internal and external value of the currency in the interest of balanced and sustainable growth. This protection meant that the priority was to keep inflation low and the exchange rate as stable as possible.

Stals said that lower-income groups suffered more from high inflation. Higher inflation would lead to lower economic growth, and higher unemployment, he said.

Overall financial stability was determined by tight control of the monetary supply; bank credit extension that grew with the economy; realistic interest rates; an increase in the gold and foreign exchange levels and the stability of the rand.

Pillay described the Reserve Bank's management of the exchange rate as incompetent because "of its unbridled determination to relax exchange controls and show the world that this country belongs to the big league of globalised finance."

South Africa: Parliament Committee Debates Land Bills

*MB0503182796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1730 GMT 05 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] National Assembly Mar 5 SAPA — Legislation which secures land tenure for all South Africans was debated and accepted by most parties in an extended committee of the National Assembly on Tuesday afternoon.

The Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill, the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act and the

Communal Property Associations Bill were introduced by Land Affairs Minister Derek Hanekom.

The Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Bill protected people with insecure and informal rights and interests in land, Hanekom said. Hanekom said he was aware that some people thought the legislation would encourage land invasions, but said nothing could be further from the truth as it provided for the protection of "beneficial occupation for a continuous period of not less than five years prior to December 31, 1997".

"Clearly, no-one intending to invade land is covered by the bill". It covered those people who occupied land as if they were the owners of the land.

Supporting the measure Patekile Holomisa (ANC) said the rights should be extended to cover mineral rights.

The NP [National Party] supported the measure as a convenient way of bringing security to informal land owners, Andries Beyers said.

It was also supported by the Freedom Front [FF] and IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party].

Amendments to the Upgrading of Land Tenure Rights Act were intended to bring it in line with government policy on tenure according to the Reconstruction and Development Programme, Hanekom said. The amendments offered all South Africans the right to choose. It would be instrumental in protecting tribal and communal land holding systems against arbitrary upgrading into individual freehold.

Although supported by the NP and ANC, the FF was concerned about whether all the relevant tribal chiefs had been consulted about the amendments. The IFP was concerned about a clause which, Mhlabunzima Hlengwa said, undermined the integrity of the traditional African style of dealing with tribal land matters.

The Communal Property Associations Bill provided for a new form of legal institution through which members of disadvantaged communities might collectively acquire, hold and manage property, Hanekom said. However, it would have to meet public standards of fair process, democratic accountability and equality to be eligible for registration.

The Department of Land Affairs would set up an office to register these associations, help communities and deal with complaints of abuse, he said.

Holomisa (ANC) said it gave new impetus to the land restitution [words indistinct] "to a group of Afrikaners who want to buy a piece of land", as well as to the kibbutz system of land ownership, Hanekom said.

However, all the principles of the law would also have to apply in those cases, he said.

Voting on the measures was deferred.

South Africa: IFP Explains Nonparticipation in Truth Commission

*MB0403181296 Johannesburg RAPPORT
in Afrikaans 3 Mar 96 p 10*

[Report by J.J. van Wyk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Attempts by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission [TRC] to involve the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] and its supporters has apparently been dealt a severe blow on the eve of talks between the TRC and IFP leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

In a memorandum handed over by Inkatha Senator Ruth Rabinowitz to RAPPORT, the IFP clearly sets out its strong opposition to the TRC, and cooperation with the committee is excluded.

"In the light of the absence of IFP-aligned members on the commission, the general bias of TRC members in favor of the ANC, and the exclusion of Archbishop Stanley Magobo — as commissioner of the TRC — the IFP has no option but to regard the TRC as a political tribunal."

"The IFP's cooperation would lend legitimacy to yet another defective process that aims at achieving the political high ground from the sufferings of the past," the memorandum concludes.

Almost every TRC objective is shot down by the strongly worded document. Regarding the TRC's reconciliatory role, it is being said that certain people already are reconciled, others will be reconciled after knowing what happened, but others will not be happy that law and justice has occurred.

Regarding reparation for victims as planned by the TRC, it is said that it won't at all be the same as compensation awarded by civil courts. It will consequently anger a lot of people, and cause them to take the law into their own hands.

The truth will furthermore be warped because:

- It will be told by people who want amnesty and reparation;

- It will be heard by a political tribunal that excludes IFP representatives;

- A clear indication already has been given by Justice Minister Dullah Omar of double morality in respect of the truth: The ANC are the angels and the National Party and the IFP the villains. The reasons for the IFP's

involvement will be lost in the dirt of the Vlakplaas revelations;

- The possibility is small that IFP members will willingly come forward in large numbers to testify on serious human rights violations against them by ANC members. They might, in the light of assassinations of IFP leaders, rightfully fear reprisals, and would be reluctant to point fingers at ANC leaders;

- IFP members will not qualify for witness protection because this will only apply to important persons; and

- IFP members who will in fact apply for amnesty might, through the condition of fully stating facts, be encouraged to lie about their leaders and incriminate them.

Amnesty also comes on the firing line due to the partisan awarding of indemnity from prosecution in the past. The stories of those who already have received amnesty, among them returned ANC cadres, will never be heard, the memorandum states.

The IFP brands amnesty as bait that will not work because only people who fear prosecution will come forward. The rest will not.

"Warped truths, reprisals, false allegations, victims who try to take the law into their own hands, a witch hunt, anger, and more violence will very much be the TRC's products as much as revelations and reconciliation," the memorandum concludes.

South Africa: White ANC Parliamentarians, Others React to 'Racist Remark'

*MB0403162596 Johannesburg RAPPORT
in Afrikaans 3 Mar 96 p 4*

[Report by Eugene Gunning]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three well-known white ANC MP's, two of whom are very wealthy, sound as though they don't see anything wrong with the racist remark by ANC MP Tony Yengeni, when he said most whites accumulated their wealth by stealing from blacks.

Members and leaders of the other political parties are, however, angry about the remark and want to confront President Nelson Mandela about it.

ANC whip and millionaire Jannie Momborg [words indistinct] the remark did not upset him. "I already have crossed my Rubicon. We as whites were guilty for apartheid. I understand what he means. He did not literally mean that whites stole things from blacks. Rather he meant that non-whites were deprived of opportunities. Whites must come to terms with this:

We had better opportunities, and we were in a more privileged position."

Yet he says Yengeni used the wrong words. "It would be a good thing in the future if we thought carefully before we spoke. Such remarks do not contribute to nation-building. One can't say all whites are thieves."

A parliamentary ANC veteran, Dave Dalling, calls it a "storm in a teacup." He told RAPPORT he understood Yengeni's view. It was most probably said in the heat of the moment. "It would be good though for parliamentarians to mind their language more."

ANC stalwart Carl Niehaus says he does not feel personally threatened by the remark. "Yengeni did not literally mean that whites stole things. The apartheid system did disadvantage blacks. This is a question of wear the shoe if it fits."

The controversial remark was generally not criticized by ANC MP's. Some told RAPPORT the remark apparently reflected the minds of the majority of the population, "but a balance should be maintained."

In opposition ranks, the National Party reacted strongly and requested a snap parliamentary debate on the matter.

Democratic Party (DP) leader Tony Leon, and Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen have confirmed that they will discuss the matter with President Mandela.

It was in fact a DP veteran, Kobus Jacobs, who focused the deputy speaker's attention on Yengeni's racist comment.

Tony Leon says the DP will not tolerate this type of remark. Such remarks have no place in Parliament. It shows the ANC has two faces: The face of President Mandela and that of Tony Yengeni. The real ANC must rise. If any white had made a similar statement, all hell would have broke loose. "I am going to ask President Mandela to repudiate Yengeni. [Words indistinct] want to know his opinion about such statements."

Gen. Viljoen, who walked out of Parliament with members of his party in protest against the remark, said the aim was to "send a message to the ANC. It is disgusting to Afrikaners."

Such remarks jeopardize the reconciliatory process and are a slap in the face of Afrikaners. It is part of the psychological war against Afrikaners. He is sick and tired of this so-called "Afrikaner bashing" [preceding two words in English]. There are signs of racism in Parliament and it cannot continue in this way.

Deputy President de Klerk's political adviser said if President Mandela is serious about reconciliation, he would repudiate Yengeni publicly.

A spokesman in President Mandela's office, Joel Netshitenzhe, said it has to be seen in the context in which it was said. It was probably said in the heat of the moment. It is a matter for Parliament, and not really the president's. Parliament will have to resolve it.

South African Press Review for 5 Mar
MB0503140796

[FBIS Report]

SOWETAN

Paper Not Impressed With Government's Handling of Nigeria — Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 5 March in a page-10 editorial agrees with President Nelson Mandela's call, when addressing Mali's national assembly at the weekend "for a return to democratic rule in Nigeria." Through "outward deceit and ruthlessness at home — and helped along by vacillation on the part of the international community — the junta has been able to hold on to power with impunity. Unfortunately, we cannot say we are impressed with the way our own Government has attempted to deal with the Nigeria crisis. We expect that more visible and resolute action in this regard will follow President Mandela's words."

THE STAR

Criticism of ANC's 'Rubber Stamp' of AIDS Play Funding Row — "Both the ANC's and the President's reputations are tainted, when they reject exposes and embrace and exonerate the exposed," declares a page-12 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English. The paper comments on the allocation of 14.2 million rands, R, for an AIDS play noting that the ANC "gave full support to Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma despite evidence that she had misled Parliament; although she offered weak justification for allocating R14.2 million to the play; and in the face of allegations that a large sum of money had been squandered or not properly accounted for. Surely the ANC cannot believe its rubber stamp will quash anger and suspicion outside Parliament? It should think again, order a full inquiry into the controversy and take whatever action cold evidence and not foolish emotion demands."

CITY PRESS

ANC's 'Blind' Support of Zuma Questioned — The ANC must ask itself whether it is serving the interests of the country "by the blind and rather emotional support it is giving to beleaguered Health Minister Nkosazana Zuma," states Johannesburg CITY PRESS in English on 3 March in a page-16 editorial. So far Zuma has "given less than convincing reasons" in explaining the allocation of R14 million to the musical *Sarafina II* to

spread the message about the dangers of AIDS. "Zuma must come clean on this matter instead of relying on the ANC's overwhelming majority in Parliament to defeat any motion brought against her."

BUSINESS DAY

Possible 'Moral Favouritism' in Truth Commission Criticized — Justice Minister Dullah Omar's appeal for the truth commission to "make a 'moral distinction' between the misdeeds of the apartheid state and its opponents is unhelpful to the commission as it prepares to start its work, and looks suspiciously like political grandstanding," declares Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 5 March. The paper notes that the commission was established to "lift the veil on the untold story of the 'dirty war' and to bring South Africans to terms with it — not to apportion blame." Furthermore, the ANC announced its intention of establishing a truth body "when it was under heavy pressure over human rights abuses in its detention camps in exile. By urging moral favouritism on the commission, Omar may also be seeking party political advantage."

THE CITIZEN

NP's Future? — "Can the National Party [NP] become a non-racial party that will effectively challenge the ANC for power as its leaders claim or will it fade into po-

litical insignificance?" asks the page-6 editorial in Johannesburg **THE CITIZEN** in English on 4 March. The paper does not believe the NP is "so naive" as "not to appreciate that the Magnus Malan trial and the Truth Commission are aimed at its leaders or former leaders, especially those who were in charge of the security forces or who, through the State Security Council, are said to bear responsibility for killings or human rights violations." Justice Minister Omar "does not want the truth commission to inquire into the human rights violations of the ANC, or its acts of terrorism, because he fears that 'apartheid will be equated with the liberation struggle'." He claims the international community declared apartheid a crime against humanity, whereas he says "there is no single example of liberation movements being involved in such crimes." **THE CITIZEN** believes this is a "dubious claim, considering both the atrocities in ANC detention camps and the acts of terrorism carried out against innocent civilians." However, "having smeared its opponents, the ANC will find its task in the 1999 elections to be an easy one." Also, the NP's "ineptitude over the Afrikaans schools and language issue" will ensure it loses Afrikaner support. **THE CITIZEN** is also "certain" the NP "will neither return to power as leader F W de Klerk claims, nor will it be a strong enough opposition party to challenge the ANC."

Angola

Angola: UN Official Notes Joint Commission's Program of Actions

MB0503054196 Luanda TPA Television Network
in Portuguese 1930 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Joint Commission already has begun work in the spirit of the fourth summit meeting between Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the Republic, and Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in Angola, today called the media to announce the program of actions to be carried out by the Joint Commission in the next 15 days.

[Begin recording] [Beye] As you are aware, the two men [President Dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi] agreed the fifth meeting should be in Angola. We therefore should do all we can to implement everything that has been agreed upon. I would like to assure you that the Joint Commission already has begun to work.

Today, we had a meeting at the level of heads of delegations. We have approved a program of work through the next 15 days to achieve the defined objectives. Thus, on 5 March, we will visit Londumbali and Vila Nova to assess the soldiers' living conditions.

On 6-8 March, our teams will visit the four new confinement areas. On 12 March, we will open three new confinement areas — Quibala, Andulo, and Ngove.

On 13 March, we will hold a special Joint Commission session in honor of the visiting Portuguese foreign affairs ministers.

On 14 March, we will open the fourth confinement area, in the (Ntucu) area. We also will visit the confinement areas of Negage and Quibaxe.

On 15 March, the Joint Commission will hold its ordinary session. You can therefore see, we already have drawn up a program through the next 15 days.

[Unidentified correspondent] From the assessment made today, how is the country as relates to incidents or violations?

[Beye] Also today, we held a meeting to assess the situation. The meeting lasted two minutes. Both the government and UNITA did not have complaints. You Angolans know very well that since last December, what we can call war no longer exists in Angola. The ceasefire is still in force, as you are very much aware. [end recording]

Botswana

Botswana: Budget Seeks To Fit 'Global Economic Order'

MB0203132296 Gaborone THE BOTSWANA
GUARDIAN in English 23 Feb 96 p 6

[Article by Rampholo Molefhe: "Is it authentic?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The originality and authenticity of the national budget has become doubtful in light of some unanswered allegations, and other facts:

— THE BOTSWANA GUARDIAN reported that MP [member of Parliament] for Gaborone North, Maitshwarelo Dabutha, made the allegation on the day of the delivery of the budget to Parliament, that it was in fact prepared in Canada, at the University of Toronto. No public disclaimer has been heard from government.

Could we be looking at one variety of a stock of 'budgets' designed in the intelligence banks of the western 'free market' economies, for the less developed countries of the 'third world'?

— The understanding, one supposes, is that Botswana is a non-racial country. But is it not a bit much that the people who were invited to the Grand Palm to lead the first discussion after the budget was delivered, were Keith Jeffris, Clark Leith and Alan Norrie? Does this suggest that there is no one - after thirty years - who carries a Setswana surname, and is adequately qualified to lead discussion on his country's budget? (Or perhaps the discussion was designed to ensure that the critique of the budget would respect the theoretical and ideological tenets on which the budget is premised, and to avoid risking the 'Motswana' who might be tempted to speak more critically about the book?)

— Is it purely accidental, or a matter of coincidence, that the language of the budget follows closely along the guidelines pronounced by the leading financial institutions of the 'free market' world view — the IMF and World Bank as those which should be followed by the economies of the 'developing world'?

The question is: Are we discussing an authentically Botswana budget? Or perhaps a document which seeks to fit Botswana more tightly into the international network of countries which pay their allegiance to the new global economic order, led by the leading industrial countries of the so-called 'free market' economies?

Only the naive would want to see the budget in isolation from the international drift towards the 'laissez faire capitalism' of old, and away from the social welfare economies of the post World War II period.

And by extension, the movement towards international capitalism and away from the socialism of the post World War I period. Let's get back home.

Some thoughts: The budget projections show an anticipated 'deficit' in excess of P600 [pula] million. The 1994/95 also predicted a sizable deficit which somehow transformed itself into a surplus close to P300 million.

The deficits, which later turn out to be surpluses, apart from creating uncertainty about the predictability of the performance of the economy, sometimes serve a political function. On the other hand the announced deficits may also have implications for planning and determination of the future shape of the economy.

On the political front, a projected deficit enables the government of the day to plead bankruptcy whenever the voting public raises questions about why the government is not delivering on projects, services and even salary increases.

Similarly, the repetitive declaration of drought may induce in the minds of the electorate, a sense that little or nothing can be done about their desperate economic condition because of the continuous recurrence of drought. And so development-oriented expectations are dampened or subverted because there is a ready and natural explanation for the state of things.

The country has no money," the government pleads. And by extension government will command: "We must all tighten our belts." It all makes sense doesn't it?

The traditional moneymakers for the country though - diamonds, Bank of Botswana [BOB] revenues and customs and excise - which account for about 80 percent of total revenues, are said to be doing well.

"Botswana's diamond mines continue to be amongst the largest, richest and the most cost-effective producers of gemstones in the world... Production in 1995, at 16.8 million carats, was 8 percent higher than in 1994. The Central Selling Organisation (CSO) through which our diamonds are sold reported record sales of US\$4.53 billion in 1995. The market for larger and better quality gemstones improved sufficiently for the CSO in 1995 to raise the prices of stones larger than two carats by five per cent".

1. Diamonds are making money.

The Annual Economic Report for 1996 says: "The 1995/96 revised estimates show a total revenue (including grants) of P5,145 million. The 15 percent growth over the actual out turn for 1994/95 is explained mainly by the expected recovery of the revenue from the Bank of Botswana to more normal levels. The budget estimates for 1996/97 project a total revenue of P5,421

million, indicating a moderate 5.4 percent growth over the revised revenue estimate for 1995/96"

2. The BOB is making money. BOB money is government money.

Little specific is said in figures about revenues from customs and excise in the budget, but neither are there any complaints. (In fact very little that is notable is said about mining, save for the announcement that there will be a consultation in May relating to laws and policies.

3. There are no complaints about revenues from customs and excise.

It is also said that there was a substantial improvement in the overall balance of external transactions during 1995, with a surplus of P758 million registered compared to a surplus of P390 in 1994. As a percentage of Gross Domestic product, the overall surplus in the balance of payments increased from 3.5 percent in 1994 to 6.1 in 1995.

"In terms of import cover, the level of foreign exchange reserves as at the end of 1995 was sufficient to finance about 23 months of imports of goods and services.

The balance of payments situation is hardly threatening, and there is an abundance of foreign reserves.

Since the budget does not tell us in exact terms where to look for the reasons for a deficit, we are tempted to look to three places:

1. Poor performance in the sectors that provide the remaining 20 percent of sources of national revenues,
2. Imprudent government expenditure,
3. Some imminent and predictable disaster which would erode diamond, BOB, and customs revenues.

In the first instance, it would be difficult to believe that the poor performance of sectors which contribute only a fifth to government revenues, could upset the apple cart to the extent of creating a P636 million deficit. The third is only likely in the event of the most extreme lack of vigilance which is most unlikely at De Beers and the CSO, ably assisted by Baledzi Gaolathe at Debswana.

Imprudent government expenditure is probably the place to look. But it does not direct the reader adequately by indicating shifts in priorities, and sources of expenditure. Save some hints relating to lending to parastatals, creation of additional civil service posts, expenditure on the armed forces and accumulated costs arising from some delayed projects. But one is only groping in the dark.

Whatever the case, the greatest temptation is to accept that the total government financial assets - including

reserves exceed the recurrent and development expenditures as given in the budget. Or, at worst, they are enough to nullify the budgetary significance of the projected P636 million deficit.

Now, which deficit? Ten years ago a Ministry of Education official was asked: What do you have to say about the poor pass rate reflected in the Form 3 examination results? He said that their target was a 50 percent pass rate, so that the 45 per cent pass rate achieved indicated a 90 percent success rate at the ministry. "So what is the problem," he asked rhetorically.

Comoros

Comoros: Presidential Candidate on Party Split Over 6 Mar Elections

AB0503081296 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1830 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the Comoros, presidential elections are scheduled to be held on 6 March. Fifteen candidates are running in the elections, and the five presumed favorites are already on the campaign trail. They are urging voters to make the right choice on polling day. Mohamed Yessoufou Saliou, our special correspondent in Moroni, has the details.

[Begin Saliou recording] The countdown for the 6 March multiparty presidential elections has already begun here in Comoros, and with reason too. The five favorites for the first round, Oumar Tamou of the Comoran Union for Progress [UDZIMA], Mohamed Taki Abdulkarim of the National Union for Democracy in the Comoros, Abbas Djoussouf of the Forum — a coalition of seven parties — Said Ali Kemal of the Islands Fraternity and Unity Party, and (Maicham Tara), a UDZIMA dissident and independent candidate; have been doing their utmost over the past 48 hours to lure the 160,000 voters of Grande Comore. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Oumar Tamou, UDZIMA presidential candidate, comments on the split within his party.

[Begin Tamou recording] It is not a split per se. During the 1991 UDZIMA constituent congress, we laid down the party's internal regulations and statutes. They stipulate that in the event of a submission of several presidential candidacies, primaries will be held. When several party members expressed the wish to run in presidential elections, we had to implement the provisions on the primaries. This is why we strictly adhered to the regulations on the holding of primaries during our congress in (Mutswamoudou) on 24 November 1995. I submitted my candidacy, and I obtained 37 out of the 42 votes cast by the party delegates. [end recording]

Lesotho

Lesotho: Bank Says Employee Arrested for Coup Attempt 'Disgrace'

MB0103175696 *Maseru Radio Lesotho in English*
1600 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lesotho Bank management announces to the public with great disappointment that a certain Matsoso Bolofo, who is reported to be in police custody in connection with the attempted coup, was an employee of the bank in its security department. According to the announcement issued by the management of the bank today, what Bolofo did was a disgrace and that his act was not acceptable as the laws governing the bank indicated clearly that employees must not engage themselves in political activity. The announcement [words indistinct] the bank has already taken appropriate measures basing itself on laws governing it. The bank assures the public that it will continue to serve it with all the trust needed.

Mozambique

Mozambique: Renamo Deputy Criticizes Chissano's Assembly Speech

MB0103175096 *Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese* 1030 GMT 1 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mozambique National Resistance Deputy Almeida Tambara has reacted this way to President Joaquim Chissano's state of the nation address yesterday:

[Begin Tambara recording] From our point of view, the Mozambican head of state failed. He failed because, even though he tried to answer all of the questions, he was not successful in all of his attempts. He did not manage to answer openly some of the issues that were raised. I will give you an example: He said that the men of [words indistinct] will always have to face trial. I must point out that those men have not run away. We are here to try and find out what is happening. Another issue is this: How does a jurist just allow people to get out of jail? He did not touch on that matter, either, and there are many other things he did not refer to. There is also the matter of our country joining the Commonwealth. He said contacts had begun a long time ago. Well, I think the people should be approached before such an important decision is made. It affects the nation's interests. It should not be the government or a party alone to make such a decision. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Tarcisio Jimusse of the Democratic Union [Palmo, Panade, and Panamo] reacted to President Chissano's speech as follows:

[Begin Jimusse recording] He provided us with good information, even though there were some points that could have been improved on. For instance, he could have delved deeper into the issue of urban development. We know there are plans for urban development with South Africa's assistance in Maputo with a possible extension up to Beira, but President Chissano said nothing about plans for the north, which seemed to have been completely forgotten. [passage omitted]

Another point we were not happy with was when he said 90 percent of privatized companies were in the hands of Mozambican citizens. We would like to query that. Perhaps we are confusing the owner with the manager, but it seems to us this is not an accurate figure. In the north, for instance, I only know of two Mozambican citizens who own companies. Yet, there are many companies there, but they are in the hands of people with dual nationality. [end recording]

Namibia

Namibia: Nigerian Foreign Minister Meets Nujoma at State House

MB2902200696 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN
in Afrikaans 21 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The controversial political alliance between Nigeria and Namibia was strengthened in Windhoek yesterday in the midst of international measures against Nigerian for human rights violations.

This follows a visit by Nigerian Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi to State House where he was met by, among others, President Sam Nujoma.

According to Mr. Ikimi, the Nigerian military dictator, General Sani Abacha, will visit Namibia at the invitation of President Nujoma. He described Nigeria as a responsible member of the international community and as an upholder of peace.

Mr. Ikimi confirmed Nigeria's commitment to democracy in an hour-long speech maintaining that the country is innocent despite international condemnation of the execution of nine political activists found guilty of murder.

"It is humorous to suggest that Nigeria, which contributed to world peace and cooperation in Africa, would prefer chaos and injustice in its own country."

He said that Nigeria would not bow to international pressure to stop legal action against Moshud Abiola. Abiola won the 1993 elections which were declared illegal by the military junta. He is now facing charges of treason after declaring himself president.

Mr. Ikimi rejected Nigeria's suspension from the Commonwealth, calling it an interference in Nigeria's internal affairs and declared his country's intention to appeal against the Commonwealth's actions, since Nigeria has not broken any rules of the Commonwealth or the Harare declaration. He expressed confidence that his country would get a fair hearing, as well as the opportunity to clarify events leading to the suspension. He added that his government would not meet or welcome the committee of eight Commonwealth delegates assigned to observe the situation in Nigeria.

During the media conference, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Theo-Ben Gurirab confirmed President Nujoma's invitation to Gen. Abacha. Earlier, the Namibian Government denied issuing the invitation following the unscheduled Nujoma visit with Gen. Abacha last year.

Mr. Ikimi departed for Botswana yesterday. He will also visit Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Zaire as part of a tour to inform Southern African countries about developments in Nigeria.

Namibia: Treasury Said Facing 'Grim Year Ahead'

MB0203140396 Windhoek THE NAMIBIAN
in English 26 Feb 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Chris Ndivanga]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Namibia faces a grim year ahead because of a number of negative factors at work in the economy which will affect the Government Treasury's revenue prospects, a leading businessman warned on Friday 23 [February].

Harold Pupkewitz said because of these negative factors, Government's target of an economic growth rate of at least five per cent was unrealistic.

Pupkewitz's warning followed the announcement last week of the 1996/97 budget. According to him, negative factors included high commodity prices, extremely high bank credit expansion to consumers which has for several years been unsustainable, and the substantial budget deficit ("likely to be more than four per cent") could have an inflationary and probably a negative impact on economic growth.

"The high interest rate has already hit the property market very hard and resulted in reduced building activity which will affect the volume of materials sold and salary and wages paid negatively and will, of course, reduce ASD/GST collections," noted Pupkewitz.

The well-known businessman was speaking at a Friday breakfast meeting which provided a platform for the private sector to express their views on the budget.

"A realistic anticipated growth rate in the range of 2.5 per cent to three per cent is much nearer to what 1996 is likely to bring us," he said.

Tourism aside, Pupkewitz felt agriculture, manufacturing and fish processing were unlikely to grow five per cent "and some shall even show slower growth than in 1995". The 1996/97 budget provided for 70,192 posts in the civil service compared to 68 912 in 1995/96. The tax revenue of N\$3,998 million [Namibian dollars] was 29 per cent of GDP.

"This is a rather heavy burden on the money economy which is the effective wealth generator," Pupkewitz observed.

On Government expecting to collect aggregate revenue amounting to 17 per cent more than in 1995/96, Pupkewitz said based on a five per cent growth rate this was over-optimistic. According to Pupkewitz, Government's wage bill, which is some 45.5 per cent of total expenditure, was still "far too high".

He pointed out that in South Africa the wage bill was 12 per cent, 17.1 per cent in Zimbabwe, two per cent in Korea and eight per cent in Malaysia.

"My opinion is that having regard to the skills constraint, many of the better educated civil servants could be absorbed in the private sector."

Government should realise that if economic growth was to be accelerated, then the heavy burden of Government expenditure had to be lightened, "and that, of course, means less employees".

Further, Pupkewitz said it would be good for Namibia, "its economy and its people if every year the public sector would invite the private sector for a conference to exchange views on all important matters of common interest".

"October would be a good time. It should prove useful for better forecasting and better decision-making on both sides."

Swaziland

Swaziland: Finance Minister Delivers Budget Speech

MB0403175996 Mbabane Radio Swaziland Network
in English 1600 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister for finance, Dr. Derek von Wissel, today presented a strong budget speech to Parliament, highlighting the government's determination to stick to its internal adjustment program in order to reduce the budget deficit.

Dr. von Wissel announced that the deficit for this year stands at 143 million emalangeni, that government income is 1.65 billion emalangeni, yet the expenditure is 1.79 billion emalangeni. The large deficit, he said, is because of the large one-off course of restructuring public enterprises. The minister informed the house that major restructurings are taking place at several parastatals, including the Swaziland Development and Savings Bank, the Royal Swazi Airways, and the Central Transport Administration.

He announced major reform on the tax system, which the government is proposing to make before the beginning of the new tax year in July. In particular he announced that the top rate of corporate and personal income tax will be coming down to 30 percent, while most exemptions will be removed. As part of a move to shift the burden of taxation from income to consumption, he announced an increase of sales tax from 10 percent to 12 percent. Services will also be taxed at 12 percent. Dr. Von Wissel said the measures he described to Parliament today are designed to stimulate investment and boost confidence in the economy.

The budget speech noted that Swaziland is making a good recovery from the drought, with a growth rate of 3.8 percent in 1994. However, the country is still facing a growing trade deficit, giving rise to an overall deficit of 44 million emalangeni in the balance of payments in 1994. He announced that renegotiation of the Southern African Customs Union, SACU, is continuing. SACU is the source of over half the government's revenue. Dr. Von Wissel said the country must start to diversify its sources of revenue rather than relying so heavily on one area.

Another key theme of the speech was the need for expenditure control in government. The minister announced a new system to record the financial commitments which government makes, as well as a management information system which will enable ministers and controlling officers to more easily monitor expenditure in their ministries. However, Dr. Von Wissel stressed that controlling officers have an obligation to prevent overexpenditure. The minister placed emphasis on the importance of promoting investment and providing the right environment for economic growth.

The minister warned of the damage done to Swaziland's investment climate. He stated that it is essential that a lasting political settlement be found if a stable environment for investment is to be created. He welcomed the initiative by his majesty to establish a constitutional review committee, and announced that the 1996-97 budget has made provision for the work of this committee. He stressed that it is no longer possible to delay the painful

adjustments which need to be made, saying it is either that it is controlled by the country or be imposed on us by the IMF. He urged all members of the house to assist him in implementing the government's internal adjustment strategy.

Meanwhile, the minister of finance has announced that the five-year tax holiday for investors in Swaziland is to be completely eliminated. Speaking at a press briefing, the minister said it is time that everybody pays tax. He said a number of studies have been done and it has been discovered that the five-year tax holiday has little effect on the reasons why investors would relocate in Swaziland. He said political stability is the main issue investors look for. On another issue, Dr. Von Wissel announced in the budget speech that fuel prices are set to rise. He said the fuel levy will be increased by five cents, from 20 cents to 25 cents. He said the retail price of fuel will still remain below the cost per liter in neighboring countries. The minister also announced that government is now writing off the debt of about 60 million emalangeni being owed to the Swazi Bank. He however stressed that government will continue pursuing the debtors. He said what can be recovered of the money owed to the bank will be recovered.

Swaziland: Royal Family Said Spends 120,000 Emlangeni 'Illegally'

MB0503084196 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 4 Mar 96 p 3

[Report by Nimrod Mabuza]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mbabane — Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary (PS), Mr Mduduzi Magongo, deliberately pretended ignorance of about E120,000 [emalangeni] illegally spent by members of the royal family in South Africa (SA). It was allegedly spent on shopping.

The money was taken on different intervals from the Trade Mission in Johannesburg and High Commission in Pretoria. It was to be reimbursed by either the King's Office or Swazi National Treasury.

In February, this year, Mr Magongo told the Times that he was not aware of the expenditure and promised to investigate. According to the Auditor General's (AG) report tabled in parliament yesterday, on June 13, 1995 the Foreign Affairs PS was queried by the AG through a letter on the discrepancies.

The PS (Magongo) was given up to June 28 to respond to the issues raised but he failed to do so. The AG, Mr Mathokoza Dlamini, said on the Audit inspection at the Trade Mission in Johannesburg, it was found that E63,604.90 was paid to members of the Royal family.

He said at the High Commission in Pretoria, it was found that an amount of E67,871.08 was spent in the same fashion.

Mr Dlamini said the payments were made with the understanding that the Swazi National Treasury or King's Office or Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to reimburse the mission and commission.

These are some of the disclosures involving reckless spending and pure theft of public funds in the Swaziland's offices in SA.

Former Trade Representative, Mr Sam Malinga has been implicated in some of the anomalies.

Swaziland: Misappropriation of Funds Said Rife in Foreign Missions

MB0503093896 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 5 Mar 96 p 32

[Report by Nimrod Mabuza]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mbabane — The Auditor General (AG), Mr Mathokoza Dlamini, has observed with concern that Swaziland's foreign missions are law unto themselves.

Mr Dlamini noted that theft added with misapplication of public funds are rife in the missions. The main culprits were the embassy in South Korea, High Commission in Canada and High Commission in South Africa (SA).

Prince David is the ambassador in Korea, Mrs Madzandza Khanya was the High Commissioner in Canada (at the time the audit inspection was carried out) and Mr John Dube is in SA.

This is according to the AG's report for the year ended March 31, 1995, tabled in parliament yesterday. According to the report, Prince David and Mrs Khanya made it a habit to go on official trips accompanied by their spouses, with air-fare and other allowances fully paid by government.

In addition to the free trips, Prince David dipped his fingers in government funds to pay private loans and buy groceries. The prince, joined by his wife, further illegally over-claimed for allowances.

In South Africa, private telephone bills were startlingly so huge that the AG suspected that the bulk of official business is done at the houses through telephones. The private telephone bills are paid for by government. Members of the Royal family helped themselves to about E120,000 [emalangeni] on shopping.

In his general observation, Mr Dlamini said: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the foreign missions

lives in a world of its own. Foreign missions are expected to apply similar regulations as those applicable back home in execution of their duties and responsibilities. In spite of this South Korea and Canada envoys did not find it irregular to travel with their spouses".

He added: "Even ministers are allowed one trip a year accompanied by their spouses".

"When it is convenient to him, the South Korea Ambassador uses the exchange rate of U.S.\$ 1.01 to E1. Personal loans are paid from public funds".

"In South Africa private telephone bills are so huge one would suspect that the bulk of official business is transacted at residences. Petrol advances are improperly accounted for".

The findings of the AG corroborates a statement made by Foreign Affairs Principal Secretary, Mr Mduduzi Magongo, that he has no 'control' over foreign envoys.

Mr Magongo told the Public Accounts Committee last year that envoys do as they like in complete disregard of his directives.

Zambia

Zambia: Civil Servants Return to Work After Week-Long Strike

MB0403131896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1043 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LUSAKA March 4 SAPA-DPA — Thousands of Zambian civil servants who went on strike last week, paralysing most government administrative services, returned to their jobs Monday in response to a call by the Civil Servants Union of Zambia (CSUZ).

Civil servants, who earn an average of 50 dollars per month, are demanding a pay increase of 45 per cent in line with recommendations by the Industrial Relations Court. CSUZ General Secretary Japhet Moonde confirmed on Monday that the union had resolved to settle the matter through negotiations with the government. He said the return to work was not a sign of weakness, but patriotism to the nation's cause of economic reconstruction.

Reports reaching Lusaka on Monday indicated a 100 per cent return to work by civil servants country-wide.

Thousands of workers faced dismissal because the strike was illegal — which the union leaders acknowledged — and this would have resulted in loss of benefits accrued over the years.

Health Minister Michael Sata described the strike as politically motivated, and blamed it on incitement by former President Kenneth Kaunda.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Group Urges Voters To Cast Ballots in 'Walkover' Elections

MB0403140196 Johannesburg SAFP Radio Network
in English 1115 GMT 4 Mar 96

[From the "Dateline Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zimbabwe human rights organization, Zimrights, has dismissed this month's presidential elections as a walkover for President Robert Mugabe. However, the organization has urged people to turn out for voting, as a rehearsal for the post-Mugabe era, expected after the year 2000. Zimrights' David Chimini speaks to Dateline Africa's David Masunda:

[Begin recording] [Chimini] We know that these elections are not serious at all because we don't have candidates who can offer anything at the moment. Second, we are saying the Zimbabweans have a right to cast their vote, so our duty is really to say to the people, we are aware that these elections are not serious. At the same time, we are saying they have to get involved in these elections, so that probably in the year 2000 or after, they can make use of the mistakes they are seeing now in the elections, probably to ask for a change. That's what we are saying.

[Masunda] But do you think the elections at the moment are free and fair?

[Chimini] They are not at all, because we have proved it in Harare South. Why did we have to get an independent person coming in? Why did we have to get somebody going to the high court, and the high court proved that there was rigging? And with the voters' roll in shambles at the moment, really, one wonders whether we are really going to get free and fair elections. Those elections can be manipulated at any time. [end recording]

Benin

Benin: Elections Begin 3 Mar; Soglo Urges People To Return to Polls

AB0303153796 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1215 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Benin, the first round of presidential elections, in which 2,655,303 voters were registered to vote in 6,212 polling stations, began this morning. Problems were noted nationwide during this morning's polls. Jean-Claude Franck Medome, our special correspondent in Cotonou:

[Medome] "The first round of presidential elections this morning in the Atlantique Region, the regional capitals, in Cotonou, and in the interior were marked by lack of several electoral materials. Polling stations opened late due to lack of voting materials such as envelopes, polling booths, ballot boxes, and indelible ink. This came as no surprise given the difficulties the Independent National Electoral Commission [CENA] faced up until the eleventh hour. In some circles, people tried to play down these difficulties just as prior training for polling officials was neglected with the result that many of them arrived late at the polling stations and had difficulty accomplishing their task. This led to even further delays.

Voters turned out in large numbers to vote in the presidential elections, heeding the calls of their various leaders, non governmental organizations, and associations urging them to carry out their civic duty in calm. At the moment, it seems the calls have been heeded since no incidents have been reported apart from the delays in the various polling stations. It is hoped that the CENA will sort out the problems noted this morning, which have already been denounced by the presidential candidates." [passage omitted]

Incumbent President Nicephore Soglo also found it regrettable that electoral material arrived late in the various polling stations in the Atlantique Region whose capital is Cotonou.

[Soglo] "People woke up very early this morning. Electoral material was unavailable from 0600 up until 1100 in the Atlantique Region at least, and I think this held true for the other regions as well. However, I urge all those who returned home to go back to the polling stations. I am confident that the Beninese know what is at stake in these elections. The elections will prove our people's maturity in a democratic set-up. [words indistinct] Nothing will put our democratic system in peril. [words indistinct]"

Former President Mathieu Kerekou remains optimistic although he says he has proof that several candidates are resorting to massive electoral fraud to become president. Here is what he said.

[Kerekou] "We remain calm although information we have received, some of which has been (?checked), shows that certain political parties and certain candidates wish to become president of our country through massive electoral fraud. Since the institutions of democratic renewal are in place, it is up to those in charge of these institutions to assume full responsibility [words indistinct] of the Beninese people [words indistinct]."

Benin: Massive Voter Turnout Noted; Counting Begins

AB0303200796 Parakou Office de
Radiodiffusion-Television du Benin Radio in French
1800 GMT 3 Mar 96

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As part of the first round of the presidential elections being held in our country, voters actually went to the poll in large numbers to elect their president. This occurred despite the considerable delays in putting in place electoral equipment. While the official opening of the poll was slated for 0700, a number of polling stations in Parakou began electoral operations only around 0900 and, even, 1100 as was the case at the Ga ward polling station, where the voter list could not be found until that time. According to our BENIN PRESS AGENCY colleague, Cotonou has broken the record of delays with some polling stations opening only at 1400. Still at midday, long queues of patient and disciplined voters were standing under the scorching sun outside polling stations that were closed, waiting for the arrival of ballot boxes, ballot papers or voting booths.

In any event, in Parakou, the polling stations that began their electoral operations (?around) 0800, have already closed their doors. Those which began late continue to receive voters in accordance with a communique published by the Independent National Electoral Commission. [passage omitted]

Right now, vote counting is already taking place in most of the polling stations in Parakou, but what is going on in Atacora Prefecture? Michel Nawa, our special correspondent is on the line:

[Nawa] "Right now, all or almost all the polling stations in the Atacora Prefecture must have closed their doors now. According to the prefectural electoral commission, it was possible to extend the voting beyond 1700, the official closing time, to be in line with the 10 hours

officially provided for the operations in the country. Since in general, the operations did not begin with much delay, they ended around 1700 and even at 1700 on the dot as we noted in Nautingou. The vote counting having begun on the spot, the first results will soon be known. What can be noted during the poll — whether in Boukoumbe, (Kowbli), (Nateri), Tanguieta, Kerou, Kouande, Natitingou, Peounko, Toukountouna which we either visited or contacted by telephone — the electoral operations went on well in general." [passage omitted]

Vote counting has also begun in northern Borgou Prefecture. Correspondent Lucien Sotondji is on the line:

[Sotondji] "Voting has ended in northern Borgou Prefecture, and vote counting is now taking place. Most of the polling stations closed their doors about two hours ago. Everything went on well in general. Representatives of the candidates attended the electoral operations from the beginning to the end, and those we met said they were satisfied. The vote counting is also taking place in front of them." [passage omitted]

Similarly, everything went on well in southern Atacora Prefecture, according to our correspondent Gregoire Guy-Roger:

[Guy-Roger] "[passage omitted] Right now, the long queues noted in the morning are decreasing gradually. No incidents have been reported concerning the operations since this morning. The minor problems of shortage of voting papers, envelopes or lamps have been rapidly resolved. In general, everything is going on well in Zone III of the Atacora Prefecture as confirmed by Issaka Moussa Issa, the Djougou local delegate of the regional electoral commission:"

[Issa] "The electoral operations are going on well in Djougou, apart from the minor problems that we noted in the morning and which were due to the fact that officials of many polling stations were not rapidly informed about when the stations were located. Apart from that, everything is going on very well. We noted a massive turnout, which means that many people consider somehow what is politically at state now. The massive turnout also means that everyone wants to vote or to discharge his citizen's duty. In view of what I noted on the ground, especially in the Djougou municipality, I can estimate the participation at a bit more than 75 percent." [passage omitted]

Benin: Election Commissioner Announces Provisional Results

AB0403143696 Parakou Chaine Regional de l'Office de Radiodiffusion- Television du Benin Radio in French 1300 GMT 4 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Presidential elections, which experienced some initial logistical problems in some polling stations in Cotonou, ended yesterday. Voting started with a lot of delay due mainly to the absence of polling agents and voting material. But one thing was clear: the determination of Beninese to choose their president calmly. Adam Ohoussi has the details:

[Ohoussi] The long waiting hours, the long queues in front of polling stations, and the scorching sun did not in any way dampen the Beninese sense of civic duty. They turned out massively everywhere to vote. Although, they have not been able to give a clearcut victory to one leader yet, everyone agrees that the turnout was high. At the Independent National Electoral Commission [CENA], the vote counting continues. According to the first trends, General Kerekou is largely winning in the Northern Department. Candidate Kerekou is also marking considerable points in other departments, and this virtually opens the way to him for the second round of the elections. Nicephore Soglo, the incumbent is also said to be heading toward the second round. [passage omitted]

[Dossou] Certainly. A lot of faxes continue to arrive, and we are trying to synthesize them, just like we did for the ones that I announced to you just a while ago. I think, by end of the day we should have fuller results from some prefectures in the various regions.

[Ohoussi] We know, for example, that Cotonou is right at your doorstep, yet up till now we have still not received any results concerning the economic capital of our country. What is the reason for this?

[Dossou] You know very well that although Cotonou is just at our doorstep, it experienced the greatest amount of problems with the start of voting. This has doubtlessly also affected the collection of information. Nonetheless, already around 0400, we received the results of 10 out of the 24 constituencies in Cotonou. These results will also be fed into the computer like the others, and released gradually. I think that, in this case also, by the end of the day we should receive the results of the remaining constituencies.

Cote d'Ivoire**Cote d'Ivoire: Paper Views President's Reasons for Relocating Palace**

AB0403174896 Abidjan *L'ALTERNATIVE* in French
4 Mar 96 p 12

[Commentary by Amedee Assi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "You do not change a winning team," late President Felix Houphouet-Boigny said. It is doubtless on the strength of this maxim that the chairman of the Democratic Party of Cote d'Ivoire (PDCI) thought it wise to reappoint all the members of the Duncan government. This is because for the PDCI leaders, with this cabinet, their party has won everything.

Through a similar application of this thought, the PDCI partisans have brought out a new notion: "You do not change a method which makes you not only win but also remain in power as long as possible."

So, if the late President Houphouet-Boigny, after long and frequent visits to his native village, ended by deciding to make it the capital of the republic of Cote d'Ivoire, why should the current tenant of the Presidential Palace not do the same? But for that to happen without any hitch, President Bedie must place Ivorians before the fait accompli. This is the reason for his numerous receptions given to high international personalities not in Abidjan, the economic capital, nor in Yamoussoukro, the administrative and political capital, but rather at Daoukro, his native village. [passage omitted]

It is argued that the choice of Daoukro is not fortuitous because in the face of the grumbling within the Army since the discovery of "a plot" for which many army officers have been jailed without trial, the Presidential Palace in Abidjan is reportedly no longer very "secure."

While waiting for serenity to return within "the Army," moving the president of the republic away is regarded as a wise decision, more so as there is no military barracks in the environs of Daoukro.

The armored cars and other military vehicles which leave the Akouedo, Daloa, Bouake, or Korhogo military camps for Daoukro can be easily detected and destroyed. Moreover, if worse comes to worst, there will be ample time to escape. The choice of Daoukro is, therefore, for the mean time, very strategic. This choice is just too bad for the taxpayer.

Cote d'Ivoire: Media Organizations Meet, Issue Statement on Press Bill

AB0403180596 Abidjan *FRATERNITE MATIN*
in French 4 Mar 96 p 5

[Statement issued by the extraordinary general assembly of the National Union of Journalists of Cote d'Ivoire in Abidjan on 2 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no better judge of a journalist in matters of professional ethics than his peers to assess his professional behavior. In line with this truism and, while waiting for the issuance of professional identity cards, journalists of Cote d'Ivoire have set up:

- A National Union of Journalists of Cote d'Ivoire [UNJCI] to discuss their problems and give their profession a clean, respectable, and a respected image;

- a code of ethics to better propagate the rights and duties of journalists;

- a prize for excellence, the Ebony Prize, which in compensating the best media productions, motivates all editorial desks to be exemplary in the collection and handling of information;

- a Press Freedom and Professional Ethics Monitoring Board to contribute to the house cleaning efforts of the body;

- a training system through seminars both in Cote d'Ivoire and abroad.

Considering the manifest desire, each passing day, to further improve the image of the profession, the UNJCI, publishers, printers, professional organizations, journalists, and partners of the media meeting at an extraordinary general assembly at the Novotel Hotel in Abidjan:

- feel indignant at the way the debate on the amendment to the press laws was launched;

- Deplore:

- a) that the Ministry of Justice and Public Freedom did not associate professional organizations of communications in drafting the new bill;

- b) that the sole concern of the Ministry of Justice and Public Freedoms was to restrict press freedom even further.

In a context where there is a manifest desire to support national and foreign investors in Cote d'Ivoire, professional media organizations maintain that one of the safeguards of transparency and security that can be offered to investors will be to have plural, free, and

responsible media, a guarantee for a multiparty system and democracy.

This is why professional media organizations

- urge the minister of justice and public freedom to withdraw the press bill that has been brought to the UNJCI's notice;

- urge the UNJCI to draw up a memorandum on the new press bill to be submitted to:

- the prime minister;

- the National Assembly speaker;

- the minister of communications and government spokesperson;

- the minister of justice and public freedom;

urge the UNJCI to request an audience with the head of state.

Niger

Niger: Deputy CSN Chairman Returns From Egypt, Saudi Arabia

AB0603075896 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Colonel Issoufa Mamadou Maiga, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Council [CSN], has returned to Niamey following a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Col. Issoufa Mamadou Maiga, who was met on arrival by Lt. Col. Amadou Moussa Gros, chief of general staff of the Armed Forces of Niger, and Lieutenant Colonel Moussa Moumouni Djermakoye, prefect and chairman of the Niamey Urban Community, explained how the visit went on to national press. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Maiga recording] As you know, after the 27 January takeover, information missions were sent to the heads of state of many of Niger's neighboring countries in the west and central African subregions as well as to some remote countries. This is the case of Egypt from where I have just returned. I was bearer of a message from Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, chairman of the CSN and the head of state, to his Egyptian counterpart, Muhammad Husni Mubarak. I briefed him on the events that led to the 27 January takeover and the steps that the CSN intends to take to enable our country to establish normal democratic institutions. Also, my delegation and myself, have realized that the top officials of the Egyptian Government have been following with the greatest attention the development of the political situation in our country. President Husni Mubarak, who honored me by receiving me, lauded the remarkable

and responsible behavior of the people of Niger in the search for appropriate solutions for their country's problems. The Egyptian president also assured us of Egypt's support and readiness to help our country and the Niger leadership to meet the present challenges. He also assured us that this support will not only be expressed on the bilateral level, but also at the international and multilateral levels.

Due to the political nature of this visit, I was able to meet with the members of the Egyptian Government with whom I discussed issues bilateral cooperation and agreed on short-term projects with them. All the officials I talked to were frank and expressed their readiness to help. To this end, Dr. Yusuf Amin Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, expressed his preparedness by announcing the imminent dispatching of Egyptian agricultural experts to Niger. Foreign Minister 'Amr Mahmud Musa also made us know that he would do everything possible to make the support of the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation for our institution to continue and grows. Suleyman Muhammad Tantawi, minister of defense and war production, like Interior Minister Hasan Muhammad al-Alfi, accorded us a particularly warm welcome. Dr. 'Ismail, the minister of health and citizens [name and title as heard], whom we also met, expressed his total readiness to respond favorably to all demands for technical and material assistance that Niger will make. We also took the opportunity to talk about the meningitis epidemic in Niger. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Niger: Government Restates Suspension of Political Activities

AB0603133196 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 6 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The minister of interior has the honor of informing the general public that the activities of political parties are still suspended in conformity with the National Salvation Council's 27 January statement. Consequently, no activity, no gathering of persons, and no event — even private — should take place at the parties' offices, which must remain closed until further notice.

Only those guarding the premises shall be authorized access with the sole object of guarding the offices and the property within. The minister further wishes to inform the public that as soon as this communique is aired, regular spot checks shall be carried out by the security forces to uncover any violators who will be dealt with strictly according to law. The minister urges all Nigerois to abide by the country's laws and regulations.

Nigeria

Nigeria: South African Envoy Pledges To Work Toward Normalization

*AB0603094796 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 6 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South African high commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. (George Nene), has expressed regret over the misunderstanding between his country and Nigeria. Mr. (Nene) was speaking in Abuja when he paid a courtesy visit to the minister of foreign affairs, Chief Tom Ikimi. He described South Africa and Nigeria as two great countries that should work together for the good of the continent. The envoy pledged to work toward the normalization of relations by the two countries.

Earlier, Chief Ikimi had assured the South African envoy of Nigeria's friendly disposition, regardless of the event which led to the country's suspension from the Commonwealth.

Chief Ikimi also received the French ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Pierre Garrigue-Guyonnaud, and the German ambassador, Mr. (Yohanes Lauch). Chief Ikimi expressed delight at the cordial relations between Nigeria and the countries of the envoys. He told the envoys that Nigeria's transition program had commenced. He called for their countries' support at various stages of its implementation.

Responding, the German ambassador, Mr. Johannes, expressed the hope that the relations between Nigeria and Germany would be greatly improved.

Nigeria: Land Dispute Erupts in Enugu State; 13 Killed

*AB0503110596 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 5 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] About 13 people are reported to have been killed in a land dispute between Egbo Ide and Iziogo communities in Ekwe local government area of Enugu State. More than 10,000 people have also been displaced.

The chairman of the local government, Chief Franklin Egboho, disclosed this when traditional rulers in the area called on the state administrator, Colonel Mike Torey, in Enugu. He said that houses and other property worth millions of naira were destroyed. Responding, the administrator asked the people not to take the law into their hands and advised them to live in peace with one another. Law enforcement personnel have been drafted to the area.

Nigeria: Police Warn Against Carrying Weapons to Polling Centers

*AB0603081496 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 6 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The police have warned the public that it is an offense to carry weapons to polling centers or campaign venues. The deputy inspector general of police in charge of operations, Alhaji Nuhu Aliyu, gave the warning while briefing newsmen in Lagos on security arrangements for the elections. He said that policemen would be deployed to all the election venues and warned against acts that could disrupt the elections:

[Begin Aliyu recording] The public is therefore reminded that it is an offense for an aspirant to, one, conduct political campaign in schools, churches, and mosques. Two, offer bribe to voters either directly or indirectly to induce them. Three, use abusive language in the course of campaign or addresses. Four, carry offensive weapons to polling centers or campaign venues. Five, use masquerade during campaigns or elections, maintain thugs under any cover during the election period, and conduct himself in a disorderly manner or make use of or threaten to use violence on any person in order to compel any person to support or retain supporting any candidate. [end recording]

Alhaji Nuhu urged all eligible voters and contestors to feel free to perform their civic responsibilities.

Nigeria: Finance Minister Meets Private Sector Officials Over Budget

*AB0503224396 Lagos NTA Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 5 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Finance Minister Chief Anthony Ani has again solicited the support and cooperation of the organized private sector and captains of industry for the realization of government's proposals and objectives enunciated in the 1996 budget. The minister was in Abuja today at the opening of a budget appraisal session with leading members of the organized private sector. Correspondent Mohammed Kudu Abubakar has the report:

[Begin recording] [Abubakar] This budget appraisal session is the first since the announcement of this year's budget by the head of state last month. In attendance are the minister of commerce and tourism, Rear Admiral Isaac Ariola; Mines and Power Minister Alhaji Mohammed Bashir Dalhatu; minister of national planning, Chief Ayo Ogunlade; and the CBN [Central Bank of Nigeria], Dr. Paul Oguma.

The finance minister, Chief Anthony Ani, who chaired the session, urged the organized private sector to consider themselves as partners in progress with government, especially in government's resolve to achieve its budgetary objectives. He stressed the need for a joint restructuring of the nation's economy which he says most economists say is weak due to its import-oriented nature. Chief Ani also urged the private sector to improve their productive capacity through the diversification into agriculture and solid minerals development.

[Ani] Government will not be interested again in active participating in things that are not governmental. Things that are private sector should be done by private sector, so we want private sector now to sit down with us and look at things critically — the budget — and say the things that they have to do. We will support you, but we will not want to be involved in what you have to do.

[Abubakar] The president, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, Alhaji Hasan Adamu, Wakil of Adamawa, expressed their gratitude to government for giving them an opportunity to appraise the implementation of the budget so early in the year:

[Adamu] We want to offer our sincere and honest views. Government may not like to hear probably certain of these, but it is an open house, to be very frank. So, in doing that, it is not that we are at crossroad, but I think it is in order to bring our own experience as well, since you task us with the responsibility of taking our rightful role in moving the economy.

[Abubakar] NASIMA [expansion unknown] president, Chief Matthew Origbo, also agreed with the views of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria and says there is a fundamental change in this year's budget. Chief Origbo advised that government should in future respond promptly to their observations on the budget or the economy:

[Origbo] ...that in most cases before action is taken, the damage is done or the action is no more relevant. We have some points in this budget.

[Abubakar] The president of the National Association of Small Scale Industrialists, Dr. Mike Okonkwo, says the past budget has not made much impact on the small and medium scale industries. He expressed the hope that this year's budget will make the difference.

After the formal opening session, the budget appraisal went into a closed session, but before then, majority of the private sector participants expressed the hope that the session will hold regularly, at least on a quarterly basis. [end recording]

Nigeria: Reconciliation Committee To Tackle Ogoni Environment Issues

AB0603090096 *Lagos Radio Nigeria Network*
in English 0600 GMT 6 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Reconciliation Committee is to recommend an environmental policy which will address the problems of pollution and devastation in Ogoniland and other oil producing areas. The chairman of the committee, Chief Alex Akinyele, gave this indication in an interview with newsmen in Benin. Joseph Edobo was there:

[Begin recording] [Edobo] Chief Akinyele said that the absence of such policy that could have addressed the problems and needs of oil producing communities in view of the setback suffered for oil exploitation led to the Ogoni crisis. He said if there was such policy that would provide for the people an alternative to the loss of their means of livelihood, the Ogonis would not have risen against government and the crisis could have been averted.

Under the proposed environmental policy, he said, it will be mandatory for any company or individual exploiting resources in the area, especially where the nation's wealth comes from, to have a percentage of their earnings to provide social amenities to the host communities.

[Akinyele] Issues true to the environment, establishing markets, establishing a bank from which they can borrow money at easy conditions, a hospital for their use, the dispensing of justice where necessary. If all these things are there, the people will not rise against any government and nobody would have been able to instigate them against the government.

[Edobo] Chief Akinyele added that such environmental policy would also embrace the issue of erosion menace and provide means and ways of resettling communities sacked by erosion.

On the annulled election, Chief Akinyele said that the committee has started dialogue, having met with the family of Chief M.K.O. Abiola. But to resolve the issue, he said, there must be compromise, consensus, understanding, and an embracing national interest of give and take. [end recording]

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: Electoral Commission Briefs Bio on Runoff Elections

AB0503212396 Freetown SLBS Radio in English
2000 GMT 5 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Officials of the Interim National Electoral Commission, INEC, led by the chairman, Dr. James Jonah, this afternoon briefed the chairman of the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council] and the head of state, Brigadier General Julius Maada Bio, about the concerns of the commission in conducting the runoff presidential elections, on Friday 15 March, as required by the presidential decree of 1995. Among the concerns highlighted by Dr. Jonah included the arrival date of the printed ballot papers and their distribution to the various polling stations countrywide; the inclusion of the additional names in the voters' lists; when registration is done in the refugee camps; the [word indistinct] of these and other names; the voters ID cards, and the issue of using the indelible ink from India.

The INEC chairman told the head of state that the firm producing the ballot papers will definitely require some time. On the matter of complaints that most voters have lost their voter registration cards, Dr. Jonah said that INEC was contemplating the use of ID cards in the possession of eligible voters, be it their national ID cards, passports, or drivers license. Dr. Jonah stressed

INEC will insist on all voters to stick to voting at the polling stations where their names were registered.

The INEC chairman stated that since, for diplomatic reasons, they were not able to register eligible Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea and Liberia, clearance has now been sought to register these refugees to enable them to exercise their franchise. Dr. Jonah also acquainted the chairman of INEC's proposal for the election of paramount chief members of parliament to be held on Saturday this week, since the security situation stipulated for their election on 24 February did not make it possible for INEC to conduct election nationwide.

The head of state noted that since his assumption of office, he has ensured that all legal matters relating to the electoral process were adhered to. It was in this regard that he accepted the results of the elections released by INEC and alerted the Armed Forces to prepare for the pending election. The head of state also highlighted few areas that were of concern to government but assured the chairman that he will ensure that the security situation would be stepped up during the elections.

The deputy chairman, Colonel Dr. Akim Djibril, the attorney general and secretary of state for judicial affairs, Mr. Claud Kambo; the military assistant to the chairman, Lieutenant Colonel Karefa Kargbo, and the secretary to the chairman, Mr. Esiti Bayo, took part in the discussions.

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7 March 96

